

❖GUNSLINGER GAZETTE❖

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CO'S CORNER

Greetings to our family and friends from the Mediterranean! Three months have rapidly passed as we find ourselves approaching the midpoint of our scheduled deployment. The pace of operations in the Mediterranean (we refer to it as the 6th Fleet Area of Responsibility) has been challenging and demanding. We have met our responsibilities as the Air Defense Commander of the HARRY S. TRUMAN Battle Group with determination and exacting skill that reflected the countless hours of training invested during the past year.

We have also excelled in performing the myriad of assignments assigned to SAN JACINTO. One of the most important challenges we have faced to date was a mission to conduct a boarding of a vessel suspected of assisting terrorist elements. We had devoted many hours preparing for such an assignment; daily training was conducted to ensure that the boarding could be conducted properly and safely. We protected our boarding team by looming over the target vessel with SAN JACINTO and one of our helicopters at close proximity. The boarding was com-

pleted successfully. It was the first conducted in the Mediterranean during the past six months.

Inside our lifelines the performance of our crew has been equally impressive. SAN JACINTO crewmembers, on a daily basis, go about their work with professionalism and great determination. Navigating the ship, preparing the meals, manning the propulsion plant, operating SAN JACINTO's complex combat systems suite and many other tasks have all been performed with great precision by your loved ones. I am very proud of the accomplishments of the crew of SAN JACINTO.

As we stand on the verge of possible combat operations, SAN JACINTO is fully prepared to conduct whatever tasking is assigned. We do not desire war, but realize that it may soon occur and would require our participation. We are also fully aware and appreciative of your caring support that has been essential to our focused efforts and high morale. It is a privilege and honor to carry the American flag overseas, while standing in the defense of our nation.



Victory is Certain!

COMMAND MASTER CHIEF CORNER

Greetings from the Mediterranean Sea. So far the crew of SAN JACINTO is off to a great start. We have completed many successful evolutions since 5 December including the Atlantic transit, many at sea replenishments, training with the HARRY S TRUMAN and some interesting liberty port visits. Over Christmas we visited Palma de Mallorca, and even though it was the off-season the town made us feel right at home. For New Years we visited Trieste, Italy. Crewmembers got the opportunity to take tours to Venice and ski trips. Most recently we visited Ak-saz, Turkey and the resort town of Marmaris 20 minutes up the street. Many of the crew took tours and took advantage of the shopping at the bazaars. Turkey had been some of the best gift prices we've seen in a long while.

Sailor of the Quarter and Sailor of the Year boards were held to recognize the top achievers of this outstanding crew. OS1(SW/AW) Peterson was selected as our Senior Sailor of the Year and IT2(SW) Meyers as the Junior Sailor of the Year. CTR1(SW) Hoffman was selected as senior Sailor of the Quarter, FC2(SW) Young Junior Sailor



of the Quarter and SN Holder as Blue Jacket of the Quarter. All of the candidates were top notch.

The Family Support Group is doing a superb job of assisting our love ones while we're deployed. They are planning a "Half Way" party, and have started some fund raising for the ship's return. I would like to encourage anyone interested to contact the Family Support Group to find out when and where the meetings are being held. There will also be return and reunion briefings given by the Fleet and Family Service Center (FFSC) closer to the end of deployment. The FFSC will also be sending a representative to the ship for briefings to help us fold back in with families when we return.

I would like to say goodbye to some of our top Sailors that are transferring in February. To LT Hartman, STGC McGhee, FCC Weaver, FC2 Heston and SN Stoudemire "Fair Winds and Following Seas" shipmates, you will be missed. Until next time, wishing you a Happy Valentines and many Blessed days.

CMDCM(SW/AW) Ron Bennett



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Setting Goals

What goals have you set for your life? As we live our lives we need to have some established goals that we are looking to achieve. Goals should be set concerning such things as what type of job you want, where you want to live, financial planning, marriage etc... In all the major areas of life we need to plan and work in a certain direction to accomplish the goals we have set. These goals should be realistic, yet challenging. The goals that we set should leave us better off than before.

The number one area of supreme importance in setting goals is to be found in our spiritual life. How is your relationship with the Lord? Is it where it should be? Many today have no time for this most important relationship, and scant little time is spent in dealing with God. The Lord Jesus tells us in (Matt. 6:33) to, "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." This means to seek first to know the Lord and fellowship with him. Our primary goal in life is to be certain that our relationship with the Lord is right. Have we come to him and received eternal life and forgiveness of sins? The Lord Jesus tells us, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John. 14:6) Let us endeavor to have peace with God as our most important goal in life. It is a peace that the Scriptures tell us that comes through faith in Christ.

Following faith in Christ, all other goals should flow from a desire to be faithful to God and his word in all areas of our lives. The Apostle Paul wrote "Whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men." (Col. 3:23). We need to bring all our hopes, dreams, wishes and desires under the authority of Christ. In doing this we will have a successful life achieving the goals that God has called us to obtain.



ADMIN DEPARTMENT

XX DIVISION



XX Division continues to roll along on the Administrative Front. The anticipation of the impending deployment has subsided, and the excitement of the unknown has taken its place. On the horizon are the Chief Petty Officer Advancement Exams in January and the Navy-wide Advancement Exams in March. Congratulations are in order to YN1 Bobzien and his wife, Jonna on the birth of their son, Ryan, on January 13. He tipped the scales at 6 pounds 5 ounces. Congratulations are also in order for YN3 Mason whose hard work and exhausting efforts resulted in his final qualification as an Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist.

XM DIVISION



Under the guidance of HMCS(SW/FMF) Staples, medical continues to provide superior medical care to the crew through the early stages of the deployment. Responding to a myriad of medical and emergency conditions, medical consistently provides exceptional service. The medical department has also been actively engaged in force protection measures in the form of vaccinations. Medical has provided detailed briefings on the Anthrax and Smallpox vaccination programs to each crewmember. To date, HM3 Morehouse and HM striker BM3 Young have administered over 1600 shots in support of these vaccination programs. Additionally, training has been provided to the crew on CPR, treatment of battle wounds and healthy lifestyle practices.



Petty Officer Young checks SN Holmes Blood Pressure.



HM3 Moorehouse always busy at work.

XN DIVISION



Hello again from the Quartermaster and Signalman Team. Since our last issue we have safely navigated over 10,000 nautical miles, including a high-speed transit of the Strait of Messina while escorting the USS HARRY S. TRUMAN. The professionalism of our Signalman while performing their lookout duties and the efficiency of our Quartermasters accurately plotting the ship's position was outstanding. We have also had the opportunity to enjoy some great liberty in Spain, Italy and Turkey.



Congratulations go out to QM2 Sherman and QM3 Gibbs who were advanced to the next higher pay grade. We are proud of you guys!

- We have a new Surface Warfare Specialist: SM2 (SW) Williams qualified ESWS. Hats off to SM2 (SW) for setting the standard for the Division.

- Happy Birthdays go out to SMC (SW) Runyon, QM1 (SW) Devine, SM2 (SW) Williams, QM3 Cooper and QM3 Thompson.

- We would also like to wish Shameka Devine a Happy Birthday and Mrs. Williams a Happy Anniversary. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Until the next issue of the Gunslinger, the Navigation Team hopes you all had Happy Holidays and would like to wish you the very best in the New Year. As we continue our deployment during these uncertain times, our thoughts and prayers are with each of you.

Your support is the sustaining drive that allows us to perform our duties and serve our country. May God bless each of you, the USS SAN JACINTO and the United States of America. We will remain vigilant in our defense of the freedom that we all love and enjoy.

WEAPONS DEPARTMENT

WO DIVISION



Greetings from WO Division! At last we are on our long awaited deployment that we've worked so very hard for. We spent the holidays in two exceptional European ports, Christmas in Palma de Mallorca, Spain and New Years in Trieste, Italy. The division has performed extremely well as we head into the second month of our deployment.

Since our last newsletter, we've made great strides in personal accomplishments. GM2 Veal advanced to Gunner's Mate First Class, GM3(SW) Rodriguez, GM3 Delacruz, GM3 Holt advanced to Gunner's Mate Second Class, and FC3 Rohmer advanced to Fire Controlman Second Class, respectively. Lastly, there are currently ten personnel working on their Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist pins. This will be another great milestone for WO Division.

Upon our return to Norfolk we'll be saying farewell to GM2(SW) Boerschig who will be transferring to FTC San Diego for 57/54 instructor duty and GM2 Holt will be returning to his home state of Minnesota. We'll all miss their hard work and friendship. Good luck, Adam and Jeremy!

Also, GM1(SW/AW) Lindqvist will be retiring after 20 years of faithful service. Good luck to you also "Old Guy".

WA DIVISION



Greetings from WA division. We all hope you are doing well. Morale is high after two incredible port visits. Palma was beautiful, as I am sure you have been told, as was Trieste and Venice. We are sad to report that STGC (SW/AW) Brandon McGhee will be leaving SAN JACINTO and moving on to shore duty. On the other hand, STG2 (SW) Jeffrey King joined the ranks and soon we will have STGC Harrison. I am also happy to announce that we have several newly ESWS qualified guys in the division: TM2 (SW) Vincent, STG2 (SW) Huffman, STG2 (SW) Miranda, and STG2 (SW) Evan Hall. Also well on their way to being qualified are STG2 Blondin and STG2 Magnotta. We hope that you have all had a wonderful holiday season and we are looking forward to a great homecoming.



WF DIVISION



Another deployment has come around for the sailors in WF division. For each work center in the division, a display of long hours and hard work are delegated to each group in WF.

WF01 Gunner's Mates have been working hard keeping the VLS (Vertical Launching System) fully operational to support the tomahawks in WF03. During many TLAM (Tomahawk Land Attack Missile) exercises throughout this quarter, WF03 and WF01 have worked together to execute flawless battle group and 6th fleet exercises, contributing to SAN JACINTO'S excellent reputation throughout the theater.

For WF02, the CIWS (Close In Weapon System) technicians have been keeping up with the long hours of maintenance to keep the gun mounts up and running with little or no hang-ups. WF02 welcomes back FC3 Gollner to the work center after a ninety-day tour as a Food Service Attendant on the ships mess decks. WF02 awaits the return of FC3 Trosclair from lending a hand to the HAZMAT (Hazardous Materials) division.

As a whole, the division has been battling deck preservation from the constant battery of rust to keeping SAN JACINTO'S clean shaven appearance.

It seems the work keeps coming for WF. Whatever work comes their way, they are always ready to accept the challenge.

COMBAT SYSTEM

CF DIVISION



Hello friends and Families of CG-56, it's that time again. The Gunslinger, as always, is doing its best to keep you informed. We are currently on the beginning of our second month out here, and things are fairing well. On behalf of SAN JACINTO'S CF Division, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

The mighty San Jac crew has enjoyed two port visits. The first was an amazing time in Palma de Mallorca, Spain. The second, an all too enjoyable visit to Trieste, Italy. Most of the crew spent their time in Venice.

I can't speak for the entire crew, but I'm sure your loved ones have called with plenty of updates and greetings as I have. As always, the reminder that we are okay and things are going well is often needed during these rough times. Don't forget that it's just as important for us to know how things are fairing back in the States. Our body and soul are needed here but our hearts are always with you.

Well, it's yet again my time to say goodbye. So remember take care of your sailor. Your e-mails brighten our day, letters make a perfect week, and care packages bring back fond memories and remind us a little more of why we're here and what we're protecting. So take care until next time and know that we are thinking of you.

CE DIVISION

CE Division is busy as usual, working hard to ensure the peak performance of all SAN JACINTO'S electronic systems. Our equipment includes, but is certainly not limited to, Air and Surface Search Radar systems, Exterior and Interior Communications, Navigation equipment, and the all-important Television Direct to Sailors (satellite TV!). In addition, CE is vital to other electronic divisions in providing Gold Disk and Micro-miniature

repair services by way of superior soldering skills.

Farewells go out to ET2 (SW/AW) Butch Haberman, ET2 (SW/AW) Jay Price, and newly appointed ET2 Wade Steelman, who, have moved on to other places. Also, a farewell goes out to the prior Leading Petty Officer, ET1 (SS) Doug Wigglesworth, who although still attached to the command, is on terminal leave, enjoying his remaining days before retiring and relaxing at home. Some new additions to the CE family are ETC (SW) Douglas Horeczko, IC1 (SW) Douglas Stine, ET2 Nicholas Howell, and ET3 Chad Fechner.

All members of CE division have been busy the past few months preparing for the deployment. Between the many underways and the scarce port time in between, everyone has been working, if not on their equipment then helping someone else with theirs, making sure everything is ready for the intense requirements and constant demands. All the hard work and tireless effort of the CE crew has paid off, as our equipment is working at the top of its game. SAN JACINTO'S communications, both exterior and interior, as well as its radar systems, provide no doubt to anyone that we are fully capable of accomplishing our mission.

And certainly, let us not forget the work of our very own test equipment personnel. They have worked very diligently to provide for the best test equipment center in the fleet. Their responsibility lies with all the test equipment on the entire ship, tracking its location, and when it's due for calibration. They manage a 100% calibration on the ship's test equipment, a rare and difficult feat. Without this service, it would not be possible for any of the ship's technicians to perform their duties.

Combat Electronics: If we can't fix it, it ain't broke!!!!

